

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 EUR-08 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9457

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T GENEVA 7238

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VS, SZ, UN

SUBJ: ATTEMPT OPEN PRG OFFICE GENEVA

REFS: A) GENEVA 7197; B) BERN 4418; C) STATE 261067;

D) SAIGON 14779

1. CHEF DE CABINET TO UN UNSECGEN WINSPEARE TOLD US TODAY IN "STRICT CONFIDENCE" THAT ON WALDHEIM'S INSTRUCTION WINSPEARE HAD RECENTLY (POSSIBLY AS LONG AGO AS NOV 18) COMMUNICATED IN WRITING TO SWISS AUTHORITIES THROUGH THEIR PERM OBSERVER GENEVA AMB DOMINICE ON PRG ISSUE. THE OPERATIVE PORTIONS OF WINSPEARE'S THIRD-PERSON NOTE IN FRENCH SAID: "HE TRANSMITS TO THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES THE INTENTIONS OF THE PRG TO ESTABLISH LIAISON FOR RELATIONS ON HUMANITARIAN MATTERS WITH THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN DOES NOT OPPOSE SUCH LIAISON." (SEE BELOW FOR FRENCH TEXT.)

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, I CALLED DOMINICE WHO TOLD ME THAT NO REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE TO SWISS DIRECTLY EITHER BY PRG OR BY UN TO OPEN AN OFFICE HERE. HOWEVER, HE CONFIRMED
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THAT WINSPEARE HAD ALLUDED TO A PRG REQUEST PRE-

VIOUSLY MADE TO UN AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT UN HAD NO OBJECTION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG OFFICE IN TERMS SET FORTH PARA 1 ABOVE. DOMINICE ADDED THAT BERN, ON BASIS WINSPEARE LETTER, "ADVISING" SWISS OF PRG REQUEST WOULD NOW PRESUMABLY BEGIN TO REVIEW "MODALITIES" OF PRG PRESENCE GENEVA AND WOULD INFORM UN OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PRG COULD SET UP OPERATIONS HERE IF SWISS FINALLY DECIDED TO PERMIT THEM TO DO SO. IN VIEW THEIR HOST GOVT RESPONSIBILITIES, DOMINICE OBSERVED, IT WOULD BE "EMBARRASSING" FOR SWISS NOT RPT NOT TO ACCEDE TO UN/PRG REQUEST. I ALLOWED THAT IT MIGHT BE EQUALLY EMBARRASSING IF THE REQUEST WERE GRANTED. IN CLOSING I POINTED OUT THAT IT SEEMED CURIOUS FOR THE SWISS TO BE TAKING ACTIONS TO MEET A REQUEST THAT HAD NEVER FORMALLY BEEN MADE TO THEM. DOMINICE SAID THAT OF COURSE THE DECISION WOULD BE MADE AT BERN.

3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING A DEMARCHE TO THE SWISS AT SOME APPROPRIATE TIME, ALONG LINES OF REF D TOGETHER WITH ANY LEGAL ARGUMENTS ABOUT HOST GOVT RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WOULD APPLY.

4. FRENCH TEXT NOTE AS GIVEN
ORALLY READS: QUOTE: IL TRANSMIT AUX AUTORITES FEDERALES LES INTENTIONS DE GRP D'INSTALLER UN INSTRUMENT DE LEASSOR POUR LES RELATIONS DE L'ORDRE HUMANITAIRE AVEC LES ORGANISATIONS DE L'ONU. LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'ONU NE S'MOPPOSE PAS A UNE TELLE LIAISON. END QUOTE
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